below poverty line arrived at by the Planning Commission for the year 1993-94 adopting the methodology of 'EXPERT GROUP' on "Estimation & Proportion and Number of Poor" constituted by the Planning Commission under the Chairmanship of late Prof. Lakdawala. As per the Expert Group methodology, the number and percentage of Below Poverty Line population works out to 32.03 crores and 35.57 per cent respectively as against 14.98 crores and 16.82% worked out as per the earlier official methodology.

Distribution of Ration under New PDS

1276. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether distribution of ration under new PDS scheme for the persons living below the poverty line has been implemented in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the States where it has yet to start;

(c) the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is a fact that the per unit wheat and rice to the present card holders has been reduced in Delhi;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reasons for the reduction of ration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The New PDS Scheme, *viz*, the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) envisaging, provision of ten kg. of foodgrains per family per month to population below poverty line at specially subsidised prices has been implemented in all States and UTs except Punjab, Delhi, Goa and Lakshadweep.

(c) Government of Punjab, Delhi, Goa and UT of Lakshadweep are making necessary preparations including identification of families below poverty line and issue of special cards to them for implementing the Targeted PDS.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) Based on the average annual lifting of last 10 years the allocation of Delhi has been reduced from 65000 MT to 40400 MT in case of wheat and from 20000 MT to 12890 MT in case of rice w.e.f. June, 1997. Government of NCT of Delhi have reported that they have reduced the entitlement from 20 kg. to 5 kg. of wheat per adult per month and 5 kg. to 2 kg. of rice per adult per month, while in case of jhuggi ration cards (JRCs) the entitlement of card holders is 10 kg. of wheat and 2 kg. of rice per adult per month.

Wheat Imported from Argentina found to be of Inferior Quality

1277. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Wheat imported by the FCI from Argentina has been found to be of inferior quality;

(b) if so, the details thereof stating the value of wheat involved; and

(c) the action taken by Government in terms of the contract?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Wheat imported from Argentina conforms to be quality parameters under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and the phytosanitary norms and is fit for human consumption. However, in one of the Argentinian wheat consignments valued at